

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification by replacing several paragraphs with the replacement paragraphs provided below. Each replacement paragraph is provided with markings to show all changes relative to the corresponding previous version.

- (1) On page 2 of the above-reference patent application (as-filed), please replace the paragraph in lines 3-8 with the following replacement paragraph.

Cutting heads have also been developed in which curved string-support portions are provided on either side of a string outlet so as to limit the bending stresses to which the string is subjected when it is stressed as described above. This does indeed reduce stress on the string, and it breaks less frequently. ~~Documents ... give examples of heads fitted with such curved portions.~~

- (2) On page 6 of the above-reference patent application (as-filed), please replace the paragraph in lines 15-19 with the following replacement paragraph.

With reference now to Figure 4, this shows a disc-shaped part 110 (possibly one of the parts 110a and 110b in Figures 1 to 3) contributing to the implementation of the cutting head. It is provided with a central orifice 1100 through which the drive shaft 200 can pass.

(3) On page 7 of the above-reference patent application (as-filed), please replace the paragraph in lines 4-22 with the following replacement paragraph.

At the string outlet 115, the bevel 111" defines a curved bearing zone 120, connected for preference without change of slope on the one hand with the string passageway zone 112 and on the other hand with the circular peripheral zone formed jointly by the three bevels. This curved bearing zone 120 supports the strand of string during cutting, in particular ~~when~~, when the cutting head rotates, it encounters obstacles resisting cutting and causing it to give way (the direction of rotation of the cutting head being given by the arrow F). It is important to note here, according to one aspect of the invention, that, due to the lateral offset of the string passageway 112 in relation to the centre C of the part 110, that is in relation to the axis of rotation of the cutting head, it is possible to give the curved bearing zone 120 a radius of curvature which is much greater than that which could be achieved, as in the prior art, with a string passageway extending geometrically from the centre C.

(4) On page 11 of the above-reference patent application (as-filed), please replace the paragraph in lines 14-21 with the following replacement paragraph.

Figure 8 represents a schematic view from above of the cutting head in Figure 7. Installed in this cutting head are [[three]] strands of string 300 which project at the string outlet 115 and which stop substantially at the openings 113. Also represented in this figure are the curved bearing surfaces 120 for the strands of string. The direction of rotation of the head is illustrated by the arrow F.

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(5) On page 11 of the above-reference patent application (as-filed), please replace the paragraph in lines 4-22 with the following replacement paragraph.

In addition, it is understood in [[the]] light of the foregoing that by using two intermediate parts of the type of part 110c, or more, and two terminal parts 110a and 110, a head can be implemented with any number of levels.